

The logic of blacks being inferior was the reason why blacks were not allowed to go to school with white children. Some would say that today being inferior is the reason why blacks should not be admitted into certain schools with whites. For those who hold those beliefs, both ideas would restrict blacks from receiving the highest quality education, and that, Mr. Speaker, would be wrong.

Both then and to a degree now some would like people to believe that blacks are inferior to whites. They would want people to believe that God made lesser people. They would produce one study after another to try to convince the masses that blacks are doomed to their fate because they just do not have the same abilities as whites.

Mr. Speaker, they fail to note that children with college-educated parents do better on standardized tests than children of non-college-educated parents. It is very simple.

They refuse to appreciate that strong family values, education, a willingness to work hard, and the availability of opportunities can help strengthen all of our Nation's people.

As an example, Mr. Speaker, my mother graduated from high school but my father only had a sixth-grade education. He could barely read or write. Yet today, three of my sisters hold doctorate degrees, one of my brothers is a colonel in the Army, and my other brother is a schoolteacher in Ansonia, CT. Mr. Speaker, I am the only one in my family with one college degree.

Let us remember that we help our Nation by strengthening our weakest link, not by crushing it. Being compassionate toward the less fortunate is not a liberal or a conservative concept, because we are all Americans.

I thank the voters of the Fifth Congressional District of Connecticut, a 90-percent white district, for three times electing me, an African-American, to serve in this august body representing them.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to thank all the African-American leaders who have waged a fight for equality and justice over the decades. We must not forget our history, or else we may be subject to repeating it again.

IN SUPPORT OF FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I know something about chemical warfare. I represent Fort McClellan, AL, home of the chemical school that trains our Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine personnel at the only live agent chemical defense facility in the free world.

I represent Anniston Army Depot, home of a huge stockpile of dangerous deteriorating chemical weapons which pose a threat to more than 100,000 civil-

ians who live or work in the impact zone of those weapons.

I serve on the House Committee on National Security as a specialist on chemical warfare, chemical weapons, and chemical defense.

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I chaired a congressional study of the chemical weapons threat and what our country needs to do to counter that threat.

I have worked with the administration at home and abroad to facilitate progress on the Chemical Weapons Convention which would ban chemical weapons and the Bilateral Destruction Agreement which commits the United States and Russia to destroy our huge stockpile of old chemical weapons.

I have worked with the Chemical Weapons Convention Preparatory Commission at The Hague to support implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Bilateral Destruction Agreement.

I have traveled to Russia several times to monitor their chemical weapons and help military and civilian leaders meet the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Bilateral Destruction Agreement.

To repeat, I know something about chemical warfare. And Mr. Speaker, I tell you that to demonstrate that while what I am about to say involves my own congressional constituency, my outrage goes beyond parochialism to our national and international security.

I am convinced that Secretary of Defense William Perry's recommendation to the Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] Commission—specifically the proposal to close Fort McClellan, AL—is a mistake with significant and dangerous ramifications.

With this recommendation, the Pentagon jeopardizes the American soldier's ability to survive chemical warfare, breaks faith with the 100,000 Alabamians at risk from their neighboring stockpile of aging chemical weapons, and seriously undermines the Chemical Weapons Convention and Bilateral Destruction Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, time does not allow me to go into this discussion any further tonight but I will return for other special orders on other nights to point out what is wrong with this recommendation, and why it is significant, and dangerous for our world, and I will return to detail what I intend to do to correct this situation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROGRESS IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOGLETTA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOGLETTA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I returned from Haiti. When I arrived there on Saturday I was emotionally overcome by what I saw. On my last visits to Haiti, prior to the return by President Aristide, I walked into the airport and there were soldiers with assault rifles, no citizens, no activity whatsoever, and few people standing around the airport, and as I walked into the town itself I had drawn empty stares, stares of fright.

The people of Haiti that I saw when I returned were a totally different situation. I walked into the airport and I saw happy people, smiling people, ladies dressed in native costumes, bands playing, stalls selling trinkets, but most of all, the people of Haiti were no longer afraid.

Upon reflection I realized that the drawn faces carried a look of hopelessness, of impending death, of a life without direction or inspiration on my prior visits. These looks were reminiscent of photographs of men and women who suffered in concentration camps in the Second World War.

For close to 3 years the people of Haiti were imprisoned in an island concentration camp. The names of the criminals who operated the camps were different, but atrocities committed in these places were very similar.

These nightly arrests, systematic executions and random beatings were taking place only 500 miles from our border and as a result of this brutality people were willing to risk their lives by taking to the high seas in leaky boats to escape. Sadly, hundreds of these men, women and children will not live to see the day that they could walk freely on the streets of their native country.

However, thanks to the actions of President Clinton and the American men and women in uniform who have served and who continue to serve in Haiti, people no longer live in fear. Democratic government and the rule of law have returned to Haiti. The army which under the direction of the murderous dictators, Cedras and Francois terrorized and murdered innocent Haitians has been abolished and a civilian-controlled police force is now being trained.

Much remains to be done in Haiti. It will take time and hard work to reverse the decades of violence, desperate poverty and fear which have plagued that country, and, much of the work is being undertaken by the Haitian people.

On my visit to Haiti this weekend, I saw more than just smiles. I saw Haitians cleaning their streets and their neighborhoods. I saw Haitians rebuilding small businesses and street vendors hawking their wares. I saw Haitians fixing and cleaning schools and classrooms.